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#4

THE ETERNAL ™

PARENTAL ADVISORY EXPLICIT CONTENT

DIRECT EDITION



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THE ETERNAL





IKAEDEN



KURASSUS



JESKA

PREVIOUSLY...

Two races of immortal beings, the Eternals and the Celestials, have dominion over all life in the galaxy. For the last thousand years, the Celestials have enslaved the Eternals and sent them from world to world to mine each planet of its resources.

The Eternals come to Earth shortly before the dawn of man and transform some of the local pre-human hominids into artificial Eternals, or "deviants," for use as slave labor. A device called the Apple is used to teach the deviant slaves to understand commands. Because the Celestials destroyed all female Eternals, the Eternals on Earth begin using female deviants to satisfy their sexual appetites. However, the Celestials have forbidden on pain of death the procreation of an Eternal and a deviant – and they have also forbidden that a deviant be taught to speak.

Trouble begins when the leader of the Eternals, Ikaeden, grows close to his deviant servant, Jeska, in a way that is more than sexual. Out of a desire to tell him how she feels, Jeska uses the Apple to teach herself to speak. Rather than killing her as he should, Ikaeden permits all Eternals to give speech to their deviant companions, as long as they don't marry, civilize or procreate. However, it is soon learned that Jeska is pregnant, an offense that could bring the Celestials down on all Eternals.

Kurassus, Ikaeden's sadistic second-in-command, is convinced the Eternal leader is signing their death warrants and attempts to usurp his command. He fails and is sentenced to death, but Teneftu, an Eternal loyal to Kurassus, breaks him free. Together, the two traitors go into the bowels of the Eternal ship where monstrous deviants from other worlds are kept, and use the Apple to give them intelligence. They then set the newly-intelligent deviants on all Eternals loyal to Ikaeden.

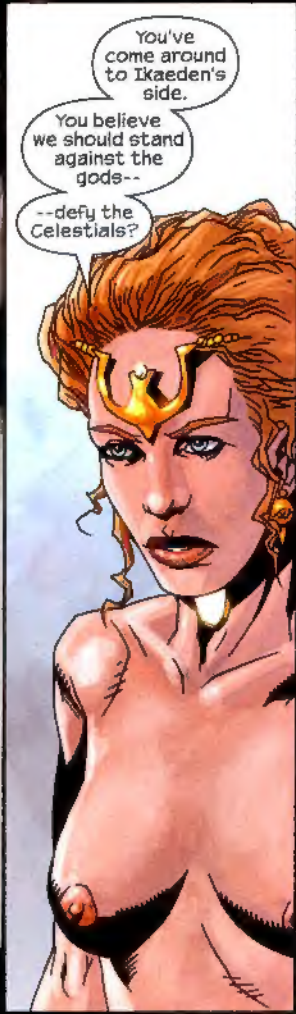
With the monstrous deviants out to destroy Ikaeden, Kurassus himself goes after Ikaeden's biggest weakness, his love, Jeska...

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You've come around to Ikaeden's side.
You believe we should stand against the gods--
--defy the Celestials?

I do, Jeska, yes.
What choice did I have, really?
Why should I trust you, Kurassus?
There's no reason you should.
But that does not change the fact that I'm still telling you the truth.

And you intend to help him.
Help *us*, rather.


In ways you couldn't possibly imagine.

What have you done, Teneftu?

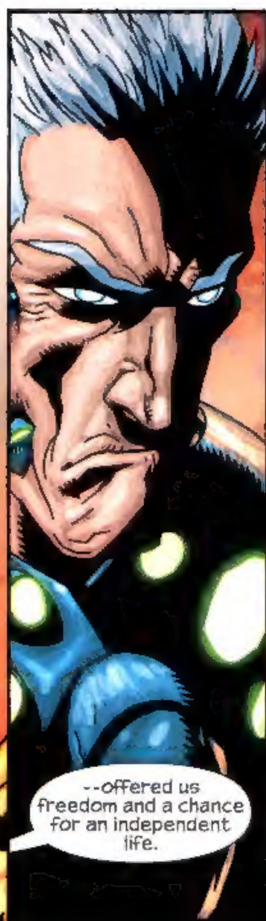
What are all these deviants doing here?

Ah. Deviant.

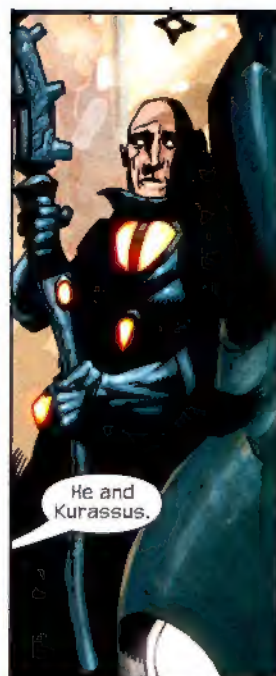
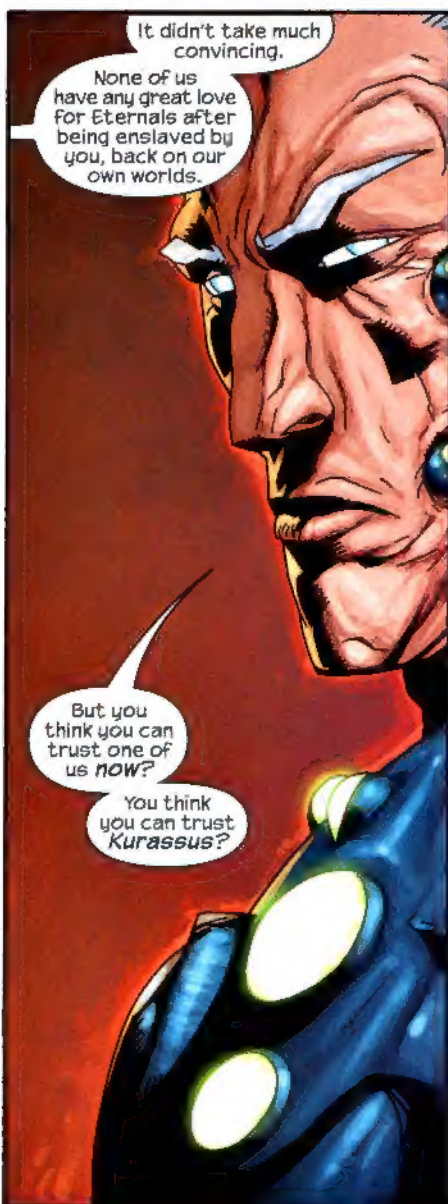
That name offends me on *sooooo* many levels.


We "deviants" were waiting for you, Ikaeden.


The other Eternals have given us the *Apple*--


--offered us freedom and a chance for an independent life.
All we have to do is kill *you* to get it.


Who made you this offer?

Teneftu, there.

He and Kurassus.

It didn't take much convincing.
None of us have any great love for Eternals after being enslaved by you, back on our own worlds.
But you think you can trust one of us *now*?
You think you can trust *Kurassus*?

Of course not.
But one step at a time. The rest will fall eventually--

--but first we deal with you.

You say the Apple contains information that will allow us to destroy the gods?

If this were true, then why hasn't Ikaeden--

--why hasn't *anyone* thought to use it before?

It won't work on Eternal minds.

But you have already proven that the Apple can instill additional knowledge in a deviant mind.

Something that's never worked before.

Perhaps you can access the knowledge we Eternals cannot.

This is some kind of trick.

You've arranged for this thing to kill me if I use it again.

If I had wanted to kill you, my dear, there are more efficient--

--and far more *pleasurable* ways of doing so.


Things have changed, since we evolved you on your worlds.
We have decided to make a stand on this world--
--fight the Celestials--
--and do no more of their bidding.
I don't know who these "Celestials" are, and I don't care.

All that matters to me is removing you from this world so WE can have our freedom.

And I'm telling you we can ALL have our free-dom, if you want it--
Ikaeden--

And why was this offer never extended on OUR worlds--
--to OUR people?
People you called "DEVIANTS."
People you used, abused and then discarded as empty husks once you had raped our planets?

We had no choice, then. Or thought we didn't.
We may still not, if or when the gods come.
But we're willing to sacrifice now.
We're willing to lay down our lives to the gods now in exchange for freedom.

Freedom for all of us.


Ikaeden, we--
Not *now*, Agrimet.

Kro, don't fall for it.
It's a trick.

He would say anything now, to avoid death.
We *have* them!
Let's kill them and be free!

How do I know you are telling the truth?

You don't.

Then what has changed you?
What would make you defy your gods?

Love.

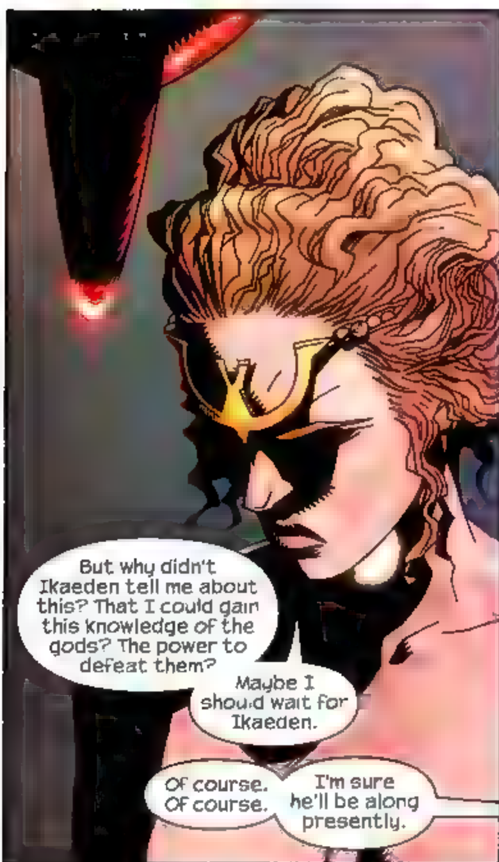


Ikaeden, you can't convince this *deviant*--

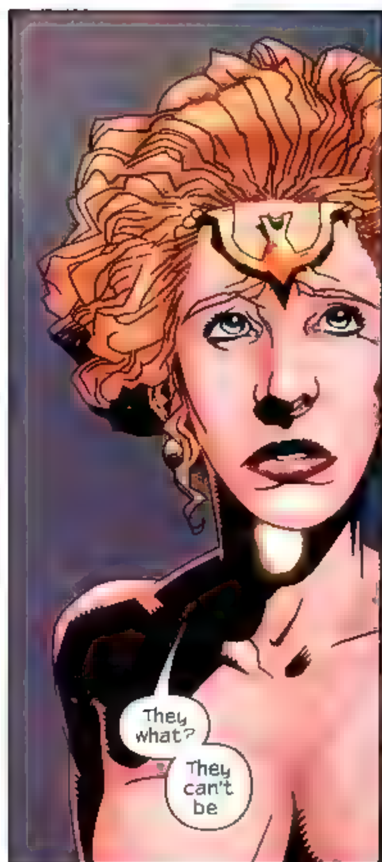
I--
--HAVE--
--A NAME!

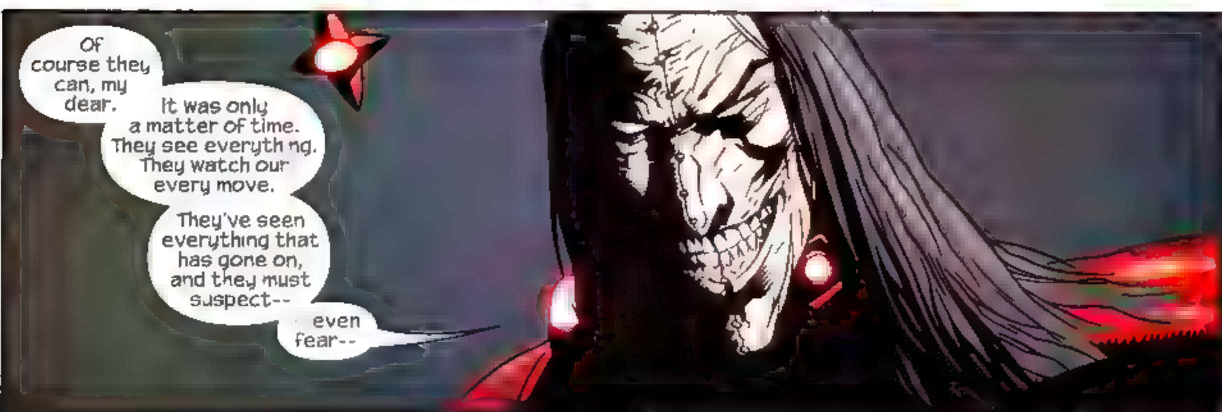

AND THAT NAME IS KRO!


I did use it myself, the last time
And quite *successfully.*
You changed the most hardened among us, when you convinced Ikaeden to defy the gods and try for freedom.


But why didn't Ikaeden tell me about this? That I could gain this knowledge of the gods? The power to defeat them?
Maybe I should wait for Ikaeden.
Of course. Of course.
I'm sure he'll be along presently.


But then again, so will the Celestials.
They're coming here, you know


They what?
They can't be


Of course they can, my dear.
It was only a matter of time. They see everything. They watch our every move.
They've seen everything that has gone on, and they must suspect--
even fear--

--that you might try to gain the knowledge that makes you more powerful than *they* are.

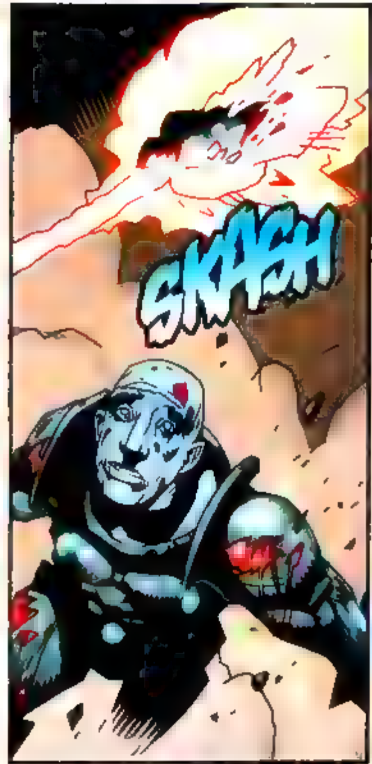
SSZHHHRRRAAAH

SHRIPP











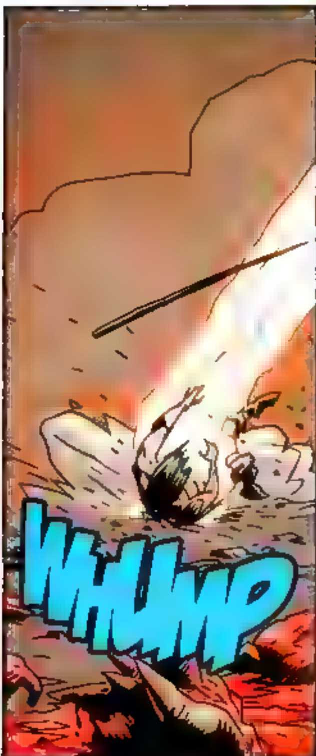


--damn you and Ikaeden to hell.


We CAN exist together, KRO!
WHY!?

Because I can't fight our master gods alone


SSZZHHH

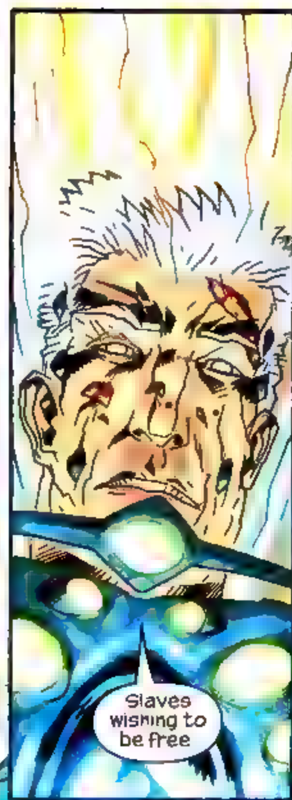
SSZZZ
CRACK

WHUMP

The master gods are too powerful.

To us, YOU were always the MASTER GODS!

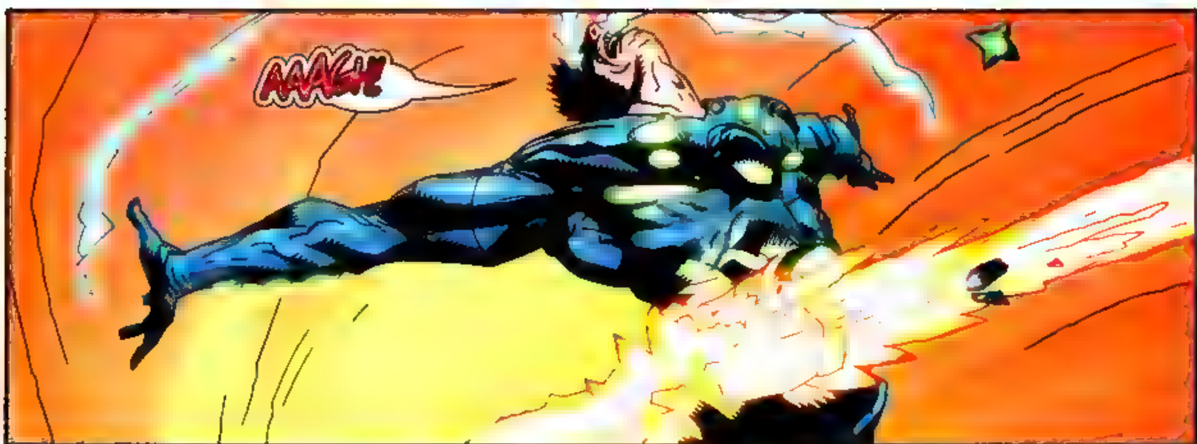

No
We are simply slaves, the same as you.
Slaves who lost their own world when the gods came and destroyed it
Raped it

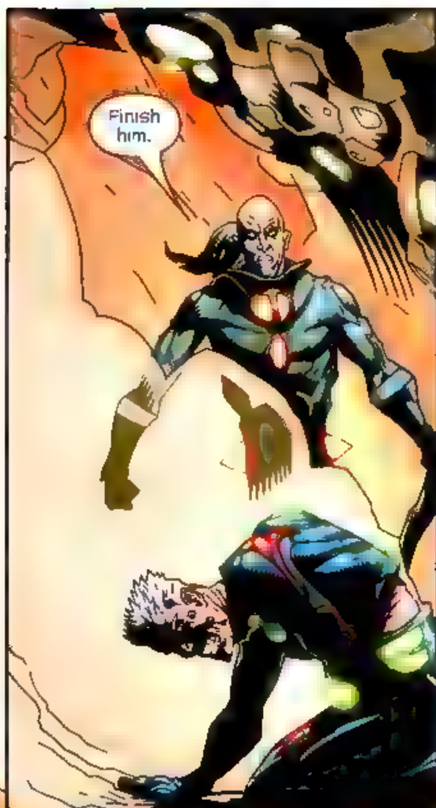

Slaves whose women were killed before our eyes.
Angry, lonely, compliant slaves.


Slaves wishing to be free

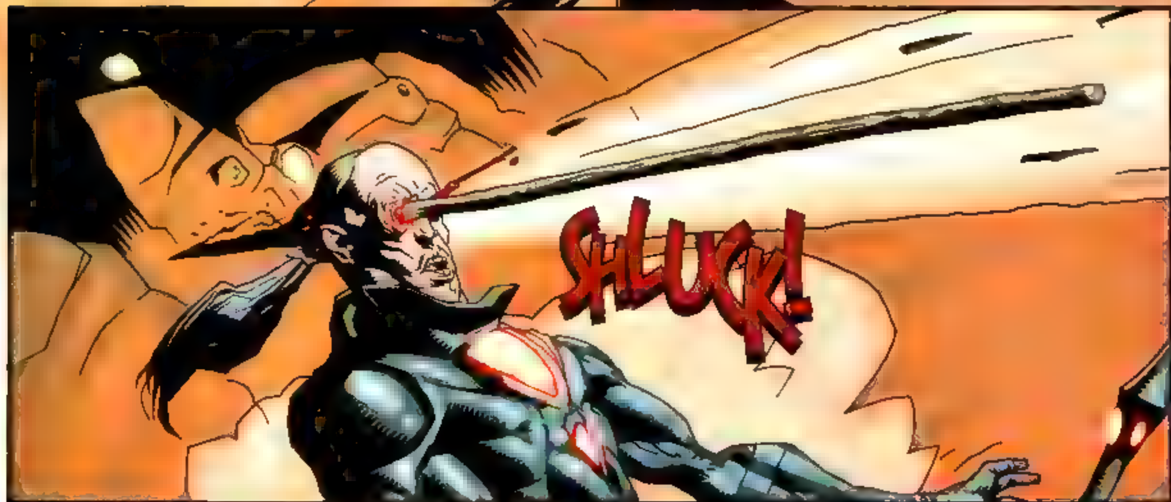

Join us, Kro.

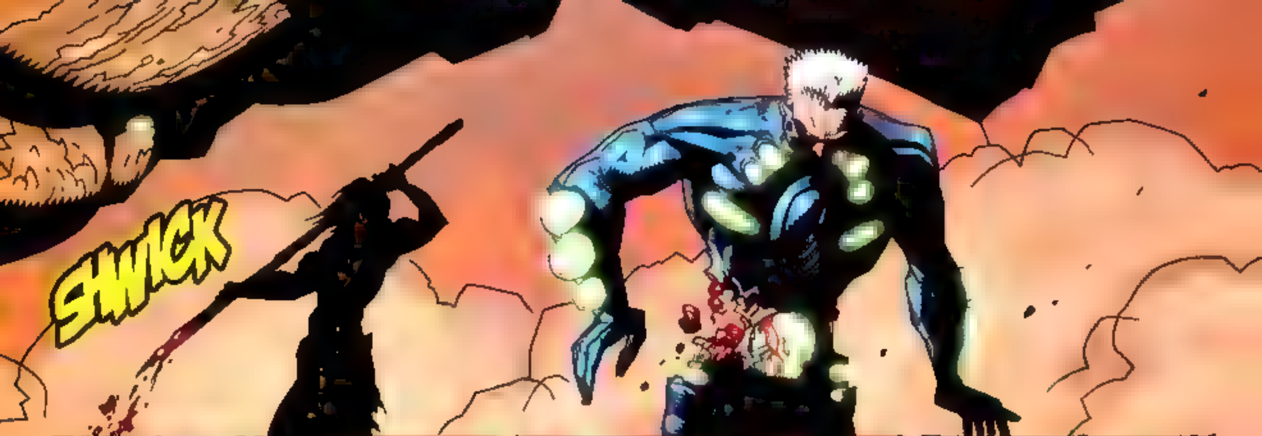



AAAGH!


Finish him.


FINISH HIM, DEVIANT!

I HAVE A NAME!

SHLUCK!


SHWICK


Are you all right?
I will be. I'm not called an "Eternal" for nothing.
Thank you, Kro.


So I take it you believe me, then?
Let's just say... the level of manipulation and treachery from your own kind gives me pause.


Then let's stop your fellows before Agrimet--
Oh.
Hell.

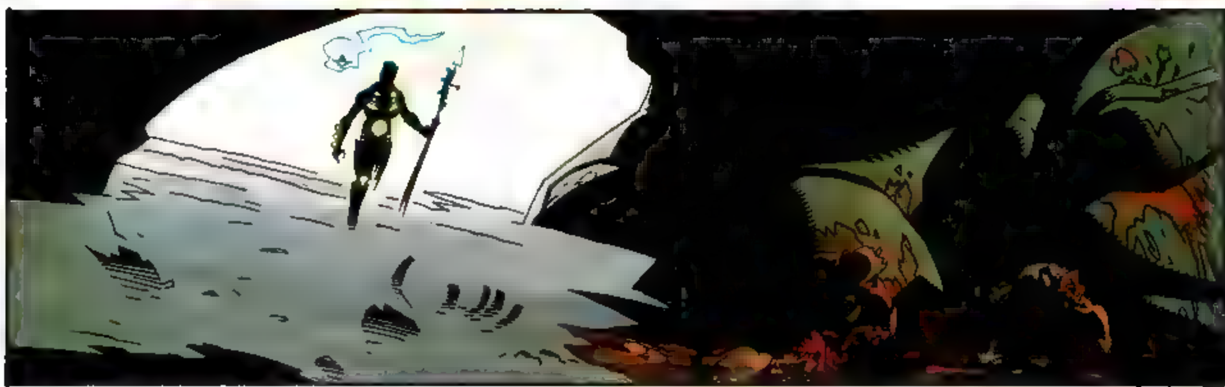

Hee heehee heeee
What?
Why are you looking at me like that?

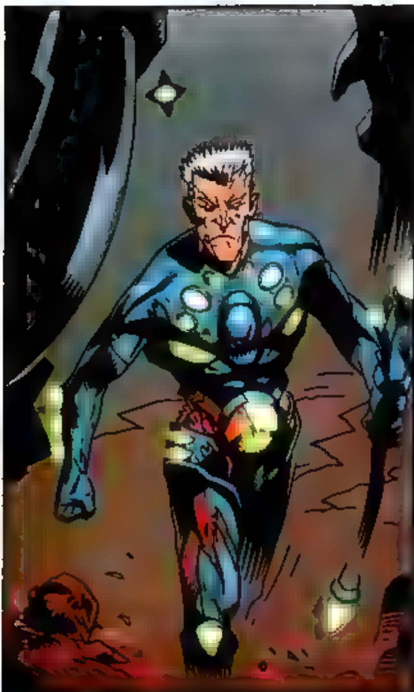
I'm not trying to abandon you to attack, Kro. This isn't a trick
My woman is inside our ship with the man who betrayed me, and I have to go in after them--
I understand what you're telling me, Ikaeden.
But I'm not standing here alone with my fellows as those Eternal transport craft bear down upon us, while you go inside to safety
You won't be harmed, Kro. Mammon and his men will not hurt you
But Jeska is my whole reason for betraying my gods. Without her--
She's been alone since you arrived, another few minutes will mean nothing
You wait
Mammon, thank you for coming
This is Kro--
What are *devi--*
Don't say it.
Kro and his people have been evolved, Mammon
Kurassus did it to try to kill me, and--
No, Ikaeden. Not true
I honestly never expected the deviants to kill you.
You are, after all, our leader with good reason.
The best I could hope for was that they might delay you long enough for me to prepare.
Maybe weaken you and make you vulnerable.
What have you done with Jeska?


Come in and see for yourself.


Mammon, treat Kro and his people with respect.
If I don't come out in a reasonable time, scatter and run.
Hide from the Celestials for as long as you can because you know they're coming--


-- and you know their wrath.





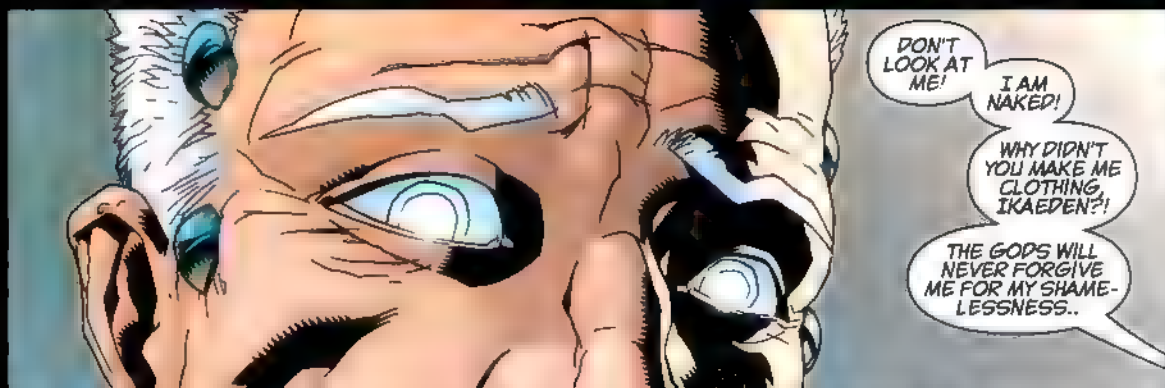

SSSSSSSSS


Jeska?


Jeska?
Go away. I am naked You cannot see me naked


Jeska, are you ill?
What has Kurassus done to you?
The gods... The gods will be *angry*...
...I've been bad.. and they--


I've been *sooooooo* bad
We've had intercourse, Ikaeden, and there is no union...
...no *bond* between us.
...intercourse is *wrong* unless..
..unless it is done without lust.. unless it is done without
The mark On your fore head
What has he done to your mind?


DON'T LOOK AT ME!
I AM NAKED!
WHY DIDN'T YOU MAKE ME CLOTHING, IKAEDEN?!
THE GODS WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME FOR MY SHAME-LESSNESS..

KURASSUUUUUS!









YOU DESTROYED HER MIND!

Actually, *she* destroyed her mind, old friend. Quite willingly.

She engaged the Apple in an effort to reach Celestial level knowledge--

--and then the core-mind safeguards kicked in and she simply devolved to deviant again.

The process seems quite irreversible, unfortunately.







But there's no longer time for that, you see?

Because our masters have arrived in the outer atmosphere--


--and they're REEEALLY upset with you.
TO BE CONTINUED...


another scan from England's own
HG Wells